

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-7 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please add new claims 8-10 as follows:

LISTING OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claims 1-7. (Canceled)

8. (New) A method of forming a ceramic filter medium, which comprises the steps of:

- a) selecting an aluminum residue ash;
- 5 b) performing a high temperature calcination of the aluminum residue ash and forming an α aluminum oxide (α - Al_2O_3) utilizing a high temperature kiln;
- c) grinding the α aluminum oxide to a grain size between 250 meshes and 800 meshes and forming a ground α aluminum oxide;
- 10 d) adding an admixture selected from a group consisting of a binding agent, a porous forming agent, a fluxing agent, and a stabilizing agent to the ground α aluminum oxide;
- e) mixing and refining the ground α aluminum oxide and the admixture and forming a mixed and refined ceramic filter medium;
- 15 f) molding the mixed and refined ceramic filter medium forming a formed ceramic filter medium having an embryo shape;
- g) drying the formed ceramic filter medium and forming a dried ceramic filter medium;
- h) sintering the dried ceramic filter medium and forming a sintered ceramic filter medium; and
- 20 i) cooling the sintered ceramic filter medium and finishing the ceramic filter medium.

9. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein in the performing step b) the high temperature calcination is performed at a temperature between 800°C and 1800°C.

10. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein in the performing step b) aluminum nitride and aluminum carbide are utilized to stabilize the aluminum residue ash during the high temperature calcination.